



Commandant's Remarks To The Class of 2005

13 August 2003

**BG Leo A. Brooks, Jr.
Commandant of Cadets**



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**YOU ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE
CORPS – THE NCO**



Areas of Focus

- **Hold the line on standards**



What Former Battalion Commanders Say About Us

“...Duty uniforms (both the APFU and BDUs), boots and personal equipment were wrinkled, torn, unserviceable or dirty and well below standards. Class A’s were also identified as ill-fitting and no longer a traditional mark of distinction among USMA graduates.”



Areas of Focus

- Hold the line on standards
- **Honor and Respect**



What IOBC Says About Us

“ In FY 02-03, eight students used a form letter to assist them on a communication skills assignment. All the students were referred to an academic board. The board found 6 students guilty of using the letter. The students were allowed to continue the course with a grade point penalty in communicative skills. Equivocation appears to be acceptable among some.”



Areas of Focus

- Hold the line on standards
- Honor and Respect
- **Drug and alcohol abuse**



What Former Battalion Commanders Say About Us

“I had three USMA graduates (all lieutenants). One received a Chapter 10 on ecstasy charges (abused and sold it). He had used the drug at West Point. Another was convicted for attempted bribery of a police officer on a DUI charge. This is a maturity issue. They didn’t understand the roles of officership.”



Areas of Focus

- Hold the line on standards
- Honor and Respect
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- **Sexual misconduct**



What Former Battalion Commanders Say About Us

“Some of our new lieutenants were selling drugs, driving under the influence, cheating on exams, and engaging in sexually promiscuous behavior like adultery with instructor pilots’ wives (videos of sex with wives). I mean engaged in behaviors that you’d have to be creative to dream up.”



Areas of Focus

- Hold the line on standards
- Honor and Respect
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Sexual misconduct
- **Professionalism**



What Former Battalion Commanders Say About Us

“...West Point lieutenants were his wildest bunch. Dress code and unspoken requirements to attend certain functions were issues. A commander said that some of his West Point lieutenants did not understand the importance of a dress code and attended a battalion hail and farewell in a holey T-shirt and shell necklace.”



Areas of Focus

- Hold the line on standards
- Honor and Respect
- Alcohol abuse
- Sexual misconduct
- Professionalism
- **Total fitness**



What the Basic Courses Say About Us

Infantry – We find that if we don't give them the book, page number, and paragraph of the material we want them to read, they won't read any at all.

Armor – Physical: USMA fitness score was 246 compared to class average of 250.

ADA – Values: Many graduates were satisfied with just the minimum standard and did not do their best. Multiple problems were observed in this area (i.e., multiple failures to repair, marginal academic work when capable of much better, seeking minimum standards on APFT and Ht/Wt).



But They Also Say...

“I had a USMA lieutenant who took the initiative in designing a PT event that incorporated physically challenging common skills soldier tasks at stations along a 4-mile run. The event was conducted in squads. It addressed everything you would want including teamwork, endurance, and motor skills.”

USMA graduates were noted for upholding high moral and ethical standards. Graduates were found to be aware of the moral and ethical implications of their actions and of others’ actions in their units. Not only were they “aware,” they didn’t hesitate to raise their concerns when they were troubled by shortfalls in this area.

...commanders were more positive about self-sacrifice and selfless service for USMA graduates. For example, one commander expressed, “My USMA lieutenants would take on anything, that’s just the way they went about it.”



What's New in 2003?

- **Barracks Arrangement Guide**
- **Uniform policies**
- **Greenbook**
- **DCA debit card**
- **4CL promotion**
- **Cadet Knowledge Program**

